Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0005] as follows:

[0005] One notable exception to the presence awareness shortcoming of conventional collaboration software is the ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) application produced by International Business Machines, Inc. (IBM) of Armonk, New York. The ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) application integrates a multitude of collaborative software components together, including instant messaging components, chat components, Web conferencing components, co-browsing components, e-mail components, and the like. The instant messaging component of ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) application can provide a degree of presence awareness, as all online users can be registered with an instant messaging service. This presence awareness is indicated through the presentation of currently online users within an instant messaging graphical user interface (GUI). The integrated nature of ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) application permits any of a variety of software-enhanced communications that include instant messaging as well as Web conferencing, chatting, co-browsing, and the like to be initiated from the instant messaging GUI.

Please amend paragraph [0006] as follows:

[0006] The presence awareness capabilities of ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) application, however, are limited by the manner in which online users are presented within the instant messaging GUI. At present, online individuals registered for instant messaging communications appear within the instant messaging GUI in a haphazard fashion. That is, online users are not presented alphabetically or in a manner which is easily searchable by a user. This shortcoming has generally not been noticed, as typical instant messaging GUIs only display a limited number of registered contacts, i.e. those that have a point of presence. As this number grows, however, the usefulness of

the inherent presence awareness capabilities provided within instant messaging GUIs diminishes since online users become increasingly difficult to locate within the GUI. This is especially true in situations involving potentially vast numbers of people, such as the people contained within a large organization, customer base, and/or large scale project. Consequently, the presence awareness capability of ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) application does not inherently result in usable, large scale presence awareness capabilities that can be applied to large organizations. At present, no other conventional collaboration software or software application extension includes presence awareness capabilities that can be used to enable user friendly, software-enhanced communications between people within a large organization.

Please amend paragraph [0008] as follows:

[0008] Unlike most conventional instant messaging GUIs that limit communications from the instant messaging GUI to instant messaging type communications, any of a variety of software-enhanced communications can be initiated from the presence awareness list provided by the present invention. This capability is especially advantageous for establishing multiparty software enhanced communication sessions, which cannot be directly established from conventional collaboration software other than ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type applications. Conventional ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type applications, however, lack the online entity search capability of the present invention. As used herein, a ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type application can include software products within the ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) family of products that integrate presence awareness into a collaboration software package, other collaboration software packages that can be forward and/or backward compatible with the ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) family of products, and any other collaboration software packages having the presence awareness capabilities disclosed herein.

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Please amend paragraph [0009] as follows:

[0009] One aspect of the present invention includes a collaborative computing method. The method can include the step of providing a collaborative computing system that includes at least one instant messaging client, such as a ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type software system. The instant messaging client can be initialized from within a GUI. A search initializing action can be performed within the GUI resulting in the presentation of a search view, which can be used to specify a search pattern for online entities. A search can be performed based upon this user-specified search pattern and a search result can be obtained. The search result can be displayed within the search view. At least one software-enhanced communication involving one or more online entities and the user of the GUI can be directly executed from the search result.

Please amend paragraph [0010] as follows:

[0010] In one embodiment, the search initializing action can comprise at most two user inputs. For example, the search initializing action can include the step of selecting a menu option from within the instant messaging GUI that initializes the search view. When the collaboration software is a ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type system, the menu option can be a submenu of the "People" and/or "Options" menu. In another example, the search initializing action can include selecting a previously designated keyboard combination sometimes called a hot-key combination to initialize the search view.

Please amend paragraph [0012] as follows:

[0012] Another aspect of the present invention can include a method for establishing software-enhanced communications. The method can automatically detect

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multiple online entities having access to a collaboration software application. The online entities can be users and/or groups. In one embodiment, the collaboration software application can be a ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type application. A GUI can be displayed for an instant messaging component of the collaboration software application. The GUI can provide a user selectable search option that can be initialized by a GUI user. When a user selects the search option, search input fields can be presented within the GUI. A user can input data into the search input fields resulting in a search pattern being established.

Please amend paragraph [0027] as follows:

[0027] According to one embodiment, the GUI 110 can be incorporated within a ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type application. The ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type application can include the ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) family of products and other applications with similar functionality that can integrate presence awareness capabilities into a collaboration software package.

Please amend paragraph [0034] as follows:

[0034] FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary instant messaging GUI 200 in accordance with the inventive arrangements disclosed herein. In a particular embodiment, the GUI 200 can represent the instant messaging GUI of a ~~Lotus Sametime~~ LOTUS SAMETIME (TM) type application. The GUI 200 can include an online entity section 215 and a menu bar 205. The online entity section 215 can display a list of users and/or groups that are presently online, which can collectively be referred to as online entities. Software enhanced communications, such as instant messaging, can be directly established with the online entities listed within the online entity section 215.

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